

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL**

(Acre)

**CODE 500**

**DEFINITION**

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, and other materials.

**PURPOSE**

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions and materials in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate planned use of abandoned mine lands, farms, ranches, construction sites, and recreation areas.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development.

**CRITERIA**

Obstruction removal shall be planned, designed, and carried out to meet all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedgerows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstructions that would interfere with planned use and development shall be removed. All debris such as broken concrete and masonry, structural steel and wood, stones, stumps, slash, and sterile or toxic soil shall be disposed of so that they will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to offsite or other areas.

Disposal shall be by burning, burying, or removing to an approved landfill in an environmentally acceptable manner. [All appropriate permits shall be obtained in](#)

[accordance to federal, state, and local regulations. If toxic materials are discovered, the appropriate federal and state regulatory agencies shall be notified and experts shall be brought in to determine how it shall be treated and disposed.](#)

All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Fills shall be compacted as appropriate. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation.

[Historical or archaeological significant and scenic values shall be identified and preserved as appropriate in consultation with a Cultural Resource Specialist. The value of hedgerows, rock piles and brush piles to wildlife shall be evaluated by a Biologist for all potential obstruction removal sites.](#)

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

[Consider alternate uses of obstructions in conservation plan such as wildlife shelter and habitat.](#)

[Consider economic benefits versus cost of removal.](#)

[Consider any obstructions that may have toxic materials.](#)

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria of this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended use.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

